

# **A 40 YEAR PERSPECTIVE FROM AN UST PROFESSIONAL IN THE MID-WEST**

**BY  
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# History



- Entered business w/ Amoco in '73 at 19
- Started w/Seneca in '74
- Unleaded was “blue” and brand new
- 90% of tanks were steel
- 90% of piping was galvanized or copper

# Regulations in the Beginning



- Fuel storage systems were regulated by Iowa State Fire Marshall's Office – Fire was the concern
- If fuel wasn't in the sewer, a basement or running down the street, it was not considered a hazard
- More times than not, contaminated soils were encountered during tank replacements
- Fire Marshalls used an LEL Meter as the primary device for hazard identification

# Things Change



- The Iowa Department of Water, Air and Waste Management (WAWM) is established in 1984 and underground systems come under their jurisdiction.
- Environmental contamination becomes a primary focus with underground fuel systems
- IDNR (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) was established in 1986
- 40 CFR 280 (Federal UST Regulations) is established setting standards for Owner Operators and Licensing of UST Installers is required in the late 1980's

# Today



- Multitude of piping and containment systems. Flexible composites, rigid fiberglass, thermo-welded, all double wall.
- Tanks of today are fiberglass reinforced plastic, composite coated steel, double wall steel and other composite configurations.
- Licensed Installers have become “UST Professionals”.
- Contaminated soils and liquids must be addressed in very specific manners and both require various permitting procedures.
- The responsibility and accountability of the individual UST Professional for system installations are critical. All must know the regulations and follow them to the letter. Accountability for the work you do can come right into your own living room.

# What Does It Take



- A good understanding of the regulations. The activities of our world are in fact “regulated”. Understand the intent and purpose of the regulations. Know the specific does and don’ts. **Never guess.**
- Follow the Safety Rules. The Petroleum industry has the potential to be as dangerous as it comes. “Old Dogs” in this business have been lucky, regardless of what they say.
- Know the equipment and systems you are installing. You will be held accountable for it. If it’s not installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions, you will assume total responsibility for it.
- Attention to details. An extremely small mistake or lapse of judgment can cost you and others significantly.
- Conduct your work like your family is going to live over it.

# Individual Success =



- Never stop learning. Systems change. Materials are constantly improved. Maintain your Certifications. Regulations change. The industry evolves.
- Be a UST Professional. It's not just a category or title. It's a frame of mind, a process within yourself and a responsibility.
- Never stop teaching. Don't covet your experience and knowledge. There are others that will follow after us that can benefit from what we know, have experienced and lived through.
- Work closely with and get to know the AHJ's (Authorities Having Jurisdiction). They will be City and/or County as well as State and potentially multiple agencies. Do not fear them, they want it done right just as much as you do.
- Always remember, the difference between an Amateur and a Professional is that a Professional gets paid for what he does. Unless you're working for free, you are all Professionals.

# Questions?